

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2864

By Mr. Scaccia of Boston, petition of Angelo M. Scaccia and John W. Scibak relative to services administered by the Department of Mental Retardation for elderly mentally retarded persons. Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO SERVICES FOR OLDER PERSONS WHO ARE MENTALLY RETARDED.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- 1 Chapter 19B of the General Laws is hereby amended by
- 2 inserting after section 18 the following new section:—
- 3 Section 19. The department shall provide the option of residen-
- 4 tial and day services to all individuals living in the community
- 5 with a family member or other primary caretaker, when said
- 6 family member or primary caretaker reaches the age of 65, or
- 7 extenuating medical or other circumstances create either stresses
- 8 to the parent or caretaker to an unreasonable degree or an environ-
- 9 ment that is unsafe or non-habilitative.
- 10 Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to eliminate or
- 11 reduce services to any other segment of the population which the
- 12 department serves.